

# **Governor's Council on Disability**

## **Meeting Minutes**

### **January 19, 2007**

#### **Council Members Present/Participating:**

Dan Card, Edward Duff, Kathleen Fagin, Mary Ellen Jenison, Todd Mayfield, Susan Orton, Renee Powell, Joe Sartorius, Molly Tallarico

#### **Council Members Not Present/Participating:**

Karen Benson, Joseph Colagiovanni, Michael Esser, Mikael Fredholm, Pat Gallagher, Matt Hughes, Stephanie Logan, Sarah Olson, Donna Pavlick, Dr. Hani Soudah

#### **Department Liaisons:**

Chris Devore (for David DeWitt MO-DOT), Ed Bybee (for Dave Mosby – OA), Phyllis Launius (Office of State Courts Administrator), Lowell Pearson (DOR), Robin Rust (DMH), Carol Thoenen (for Nancie McAnaugh – DHSS)

**Staff:** Linda Baker, Donna Borgmeyer, Claudia Browner

**Guests:** David Curry, Emma Curry, Jason Curry, Erin Field, Daniel Nellis

**Real Time Captioner:** Debbie Reithmeyer

Chair Dan Card called the meeting to order at 9:50 AM. A roll call confirmed that there was a quorum for the meeting. The Council members unanimously approved the meeting minutes from the December informal meeting and the agenda for the day. The state liaisons and guests introduced themselves.

#### **Report from Council Chair Dan Card:**

Dan Card gave an update on the hiring process for the Executive Director position. The members of the Search Committee are: Dan Card, Joe Colagiovanni, Kathleen Fagin, Donna Pavlick and Renee Powell, with Claudia Browner as a staff liaison. Dan informed the Council that five (5) candidates would be interviewed on Thursday, January 25. The selected candidate needs to be appointed with the consent of the whole Council. Therefore, once the Search Committee has selected a candidate, there will be a special Council meeting in person or via conference call to get the Council's consent on the hiring decision.

Dan commended the Council staff for their work during the vacancy of the director position.

Dan asked Linda Baker to speak about the 2006 Inclusion Awards. Linda reported that two of the four Inclusion Awards have been presented in December; the Bob Aldridge Advocate of the Year Award was awarded to Nancy Pope of the Disability Resource Association and Laclede Groves Senior Living Center received the Employer of the Year Award. Linda then announced that the presentation of the Excellence in Universal Design and Technology Award would be made during the meeting. The final award presentation of the Educator of the Year Award for Dave Daniels will be in February.

Action Item: Schedule special Council meeting to get consent on the hiring decision.

**Department Liaison Information:**

Lowell Pearson from the Department of Revenue (DOR) reported that the Missouri Supreme Court ruled that the Voter ID is unconstitutional. No bills have been filed on this issue during the current legislative session to date.

Mr. Pearson also reported that DOR would like the disabled parking placards to be valid for four years instead of two years because the physician's statement is valid for four years. DOR cannot enforce this change but Mr. Pearson encouraged the Council to look for legislature to be filed on the issue. Donna Borgmeyer commented that a bill has been filed on this issue.

Ed Duff commented that some physicians fill out the physician's statement incorrectly, which causes problems for people with disabilities. Mr. Pearson said he would look into the issue.

The accessibility of the capitol, state buildings and businesses was discussed. Dan Card would like for the Office of Administration and the Department of Public Safety to look into removing some of the barriers in the drop off areas in front of the Truman Building and other state buildings that were put in place after 9/11. He stated that these barriers present a hardship for people with disabilities and families with small children who may need to drop off or pick up passengers. Ed Bybee stated that he would take this information back to his department.

Ed Duff commented that several Wal-Mart stores are putting the van accessible parking spots in the wrong place. Linda Baker offered to follow up on this issue by sending a letter to Wal-Mart management and Dan Card requested that this letter go out under his signature.

Erin Field introduced herself and stated that she is interested in becoming involved with the Governor's Council on Disability. She recently moved to Jefferson City from Chicago. Her husband is a teacher at Simonson. Ms. Field will be starting a business to help students with disabilities get into college.

Robin Rust from the Department of Mental Health announced that Dr. Keith Schafer is the new director of the Department of Mental Health, subject to the confirmation of the Senate. She invited the Council members to a reception for Dr. Ron Dittamore, the interim director, on January 31, 2007 at 10 AM. Lynn Carter will be the deputy director for DMH and Mark Stringer will be the new director of the Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse when Michael Couty retires.

Robin Rust also reported that Missouri is one of 17 states that received the "Money follows the person rebalancing demonstration" grant from the US Department of Health and Human Services. She thanked the Governor's Council on Disability for their letter of support for the

grant application. The \$17 million grant will be for a period of five years with \$3 million in the first year. The Departments of Mental Health, Health and Senior Services, and Social Services are working together on this grant with the Department of Social Services taking the lead. The Personal Independence Commission will be one of the main stakeholders.

Phyllis Launius thanked Robin Rust for putting her in contact with DMH's deaf services director to provide training for probate judges on guardianships and sign language interpreters. She also reported that the Office of State Courts Administrator no longer requires MO Driver's License information on their applications. Ed Duff commented that people with mental illnesses often receive jail sentences without receiving proper medical care. Phyllis offered to meet with Ed in order to get the message into their newsletter.

Action Item: Send letter to Wal-Mart stores regarding accessible parking spaces and include diagram to show correct placement of van accessible parking spaces

### **Closed Executive Session**

A roll call vote was held on the issue of whether to go into closed session. By unanimous vote, the Council decided to go into closed session to discuss the hiring process for the Executive Director position. A roll call confirmed that there was a quorum for the closed meeting. Only Council members and Claudia Browner remained in the room for this meeting. The minutes from the closed session will be kept separate from these meeting minutes and will only be shared with the Council members.

After the closed session, the Council meeting reconvened.

### **Inclusion Award Presentation**

Linda Baker presented the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Inclusion Award for Excellence in Universal Design and Technology to Jason Curry of sComm, Inc. for their UbiDuo device that allows people who are deaf or hard of hearing to communicate with hearing people. Jason Curry gave a presentation about the device and gave the meeting attendees the opportunity to see first hand how the device works.

After the lunch break, one Council member had to leave and therefore the meeting continued as an informal meeting since there was no longer a quorum.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Legislative Committee (Molly Tallarico reporting)**

The legislature is still moving slowly. No committees have been established. Governor Blunt will give his state of the state address on January 24, 2007. Molly reported on some of the bills that have been filed:

- Mandatory seat belts for all passengers in a vehicle
- Mandatory sprinkler systems in residential care facilities.

**Programs Committee** (Mary Ellen Jenison reporting)

Possible programs for future Council meetings include a presentation from Senator Kevin Engler and a presentation about the perspective of people in the disability community by a panel of people with disabilities including Renee Powell.

Action Item: Linda Baker, Mary Ellen Jenison and Renee Powell will work with Mike Esser to determine the order of the programs.

**Finance/Development Committee** (Dan Card reporting)

The Office of Administration has denied a budget request for more dollars for the GCD.

**Old Business**

None.

**New Business**

Ed Duff reported that the local Housing Authorities have money available for rehabbing homes to make them accessible but that some of this funding goes unused because people do not know that it is available. Dan Card referred this issue to the programs committee.

**Public Comment**

Daniel Nellis stated that the building codes should be changed to make accessibility mandatory for private homes. He added that this would save a lot of costs when it becomes necessary to make buildings/homes accessible for people with disabilities.

By unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 1:00 PM.

The next Council meeting will be held Friday, April 20, 2007 at 9:30 AM at the Governor's Office Building in Jefferson City, Room 470.

Summary of Action Items:	Person Responsible:
Schedule special Council meeting to get consent on the hiring decision.	Dan Card
Send letter to Wal-Mart regarding van accessible parking spaces	Linda Baker/Dan Card
Work on program presentations for the April and July Council meetings	Linda Baker, Mike Esser, Mary Ellen Jenison, Renee Powell

Minutes by Claudia Browner, Executive I  
4/26/07